

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are at issue. Claims 1, 6, 9-16 & 19-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Slaughter et al (USPN 6,643,650 B1). Claims 21-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaughter in view of Robert Scheer (US PG Pub 2002/0138258 A1). Claims 2-5, 7-8 & 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

After carefully reviewing the prior art, Slaughter, the applicants believe the Examiner may have a misunderstanding of the present invention. The main point of the present application is a method for limiting access to information stored in XML documents. (See background page 2, lines 18-22) In the present application this is accomplished by performing two separate searches and determining an intersection of these two searches. One search called an access search determines the information in the XML documents that the user is allowed access to. The second search is the result from a query by the user. By overlapping these searches it is possible to determine what information the user should receive in response to their query.

In Slaughter the only discussion of limiting access to information or services is the use of access control lists (ACL). The access control list is a standard authentication procedure. There is no discussion of limiting access within XML documents, as in the present application.

Claim 1 requires an access search result and a query search result. Slaughter clearly does not have an access search result. The part of the patent pointed to by the Examiner deal with searches to find service, but do not have an access control search. Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 6 is allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 9 requires that the XML document be flattened. This is explained in the application with respect to FIGs. 1 & 2. There is not discussion of flattening or otherwise changing the structure of the XML documents in Slaughter. The section pointed to by the Examiner discusses standard XML documents. Claim 9 is allowable.

Claim 10 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 9.

Claim 11 requires an intersection operation. No intersection operation is discussed in the section pointed to by the Examiner. Claim 11 is allowable.

Claim 12 requires an access search result and a query search result. Slaughter clearly does not have an access search result. The part of the patent pointed to by the Examiner deal with searches to find service, but do not have an access control search. Claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 13 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 12.

Claims 14 & 15 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 16 requires an access search result and a query search result. Slaughter clearly does not have an access search result. The part of the patent pointed to by the Examiner deal with searches to find service, but do not have an access control search. Claim 16 is allowable.

Claim 19 requires determining an access control rule. The Examiner points to the abstract, but there is nothing there about determining a user's organization or access control rules. Claim 19 is allowable.

Claim 20 requires that the XML document be flattened. This is explained in the application with respect to FIGs. 1 & 2. There is not discussion of flattening or

otherwise changing the structure of the XML documents in Slaughter. The section pointed to by the Examiner discusses standard XML documents. Claim 20 is allowable.

Claim 21 requires that the search be a sliding window search. There is no discussion in the prior art of a sliding window search. Claim 21 is allowable.

Claims 22-27 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The application has been placed in condition for allowance, prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that an Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

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Signature (Dale B. Halling)